

Message Text

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CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01

SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-15

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 AS-01 /088 W

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R 301900Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7403

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 03070

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: TINDEMANS REPORT - THE FRENCH VIEW

REF: (A) PARIS 2523; (B) STATE 21747; (C) STATE 21783;
(D) EC BRUSSELS 978

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AS FOLLOW-ON TO OUR DISCUSSION WITH
ANDREANI (REF A), WE MET WITH DUFOURCQ (QUAI DEPUTY
DIRECTOR FOR WESTERN EUROPE) TO DISCUSS HIS REACTION
TO TINDEMANS REPORT. DUFOURCQ REPEATED MANY OF THE
COMMENTS MADE EARLIER BY ANDREANI AND ADDED SEVERAL
PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS. IN LIGHT OF OUR DISCUSSIONS
WITH ANDREANI AND DUFOURCQ, WE BELIEVE DEPARTMENT'S LOW-
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KEY GUIDANCE ON US RESPONSE TO TINDEMANS REPORT AT THIS

TIME IS RIGHT ON TARGET. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN POLICY: DUFOURCQ NOTED "CONTRADICTION" CONTAINED IN TINDEMANS REPORT: ON THE ONE HAND IT ADMITS THAT EUROPEANS HAVE DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO THEIR OWN DEFENSE, WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND IT RECOMMENDS THAT EUROPEANS ARRIVE AT COMMON POLICIES. HE ADDED THAT, WHILE THE REPORT HAS SOME USEFUL THINGS TO SAY ABOUT EC POLITICAL COORDINATION, IDEA THAT MAJORITY VOTING MIGHT PLAY A ROLE IN ARRIVING AT COMMON EUROPEAN FOREIGN POLICIES DETRACTS SUBSTANTIALLY FROM OTHER GOOD POINTS IN REPORT.

3. ECONOMIC ASPECTS: LIKE ANDREANI, DUFOURCQ FOUND SOME ATTRACTION IN IDEA OF "TWO TIER" APPROACH TO EC ECONOMIC UNIFICATION. HE QUALIFIED THIS BY SAYING THAT "TWO TIER" MECHANISM MIGHT BE USEFUL ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS BUT NOT AS GENERAL GUIDING PRINCIPLE FOR OVERALL EUROPEAN ECONOMIC UNION.

4. SECURITY: DUFOURCQ AGREED THAT EC-NINE CAN -- AND SHOULD -- HAVE "EXCHANGES OF VIEWS" ON SECURITY MATTERS BUT THESE "EXCHANGES" SHOULD BE LIMITED AND SHOULD ADDRESS SPECIFICALLY EUROPEAN SUBJECTS OR BE LIMITED TO EUROPEAN DIMENSION OF SECURITY SUBJECTS THAT INVOLVE EXTRA-EUROPEAN ASPECTS. MOREOVER, SUCH "EXCHANGES" SHOULD REMAIN INFORMAL AND MUST NOT BE INSTITUTIONALIZED. CONCERNING TINDEMANS' PROPOSAL FOR EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS AGENCY, DUFOURCQ WAS VERY RESERVED AND COMMENTED THAT THIS MIGHT BE MOVING "A BIT FAST" FOR EUROPEANS.

5. EC EXECUTIVE POWER: DUFOURCQ COMPLETED PICTURE OF QUAI ATTITUDES TOWARD EC EXECUTIVE POWER DESCRIBED TO US BY ANDREANI IN REF A BY NOTING THAT QUAI WELCOMES TINDEMANS' SUGGESTION THAT MORE POWER SHOULD BE GIVEN TO COREPER. FRENCH VIEW THIS AS FURTHER MECHANISM FOR INSURING THAT NATIONAL VIEWS CONTINUE TO PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN DETERMINING EC POLICY.

6. GOF REACTION: WHEN WE ASKED WHY THERE HAD BEEN NO
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FORMAL GOF REACTION TO TINDEMANS REPORT, DUFOURCQ SAID THAT THERE PROBABLY WOULD BE NO PUBLIC GOF STATEMENT AT THE PRESENT TIME BECAUSE TINDEMANS ADDRESSED REPORT TO HIS EUROPEAN COUNCIL COLLEAGUES AND IT IS THEY WHO SHOULD "REACT" TO THE TINDEMANS REPORT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AT NEXT SESSION IN LUXEMBOURG. DUFOURCQ ADDED THAT REPORT ALSO POSED A DELICATE PROBLEM FOR THE GOF FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF DOMESTIC

POLITICAL REALITIES. NO MATTER WHAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT
SPOKESMAN MIGHT SAY ABOUT THE REPORT, INFLUENTIAL POLI-
TICAL GROUPS WERE BOUND TO FIND FAULT WITH IT. CONSE-
QUENTLY, OFFICIAL SILENCE IS "PRUDENT" AS WELL AS
"CORRECT."

7. US-EC RELATIONS: DUFOURCQ VOLUNTEERED HIS PERSONAL
IMPRESSION THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR UNITED STATES TO
COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF TINDEMANS REPORT ONLY AFTER EUROPEAN
COUNCIL -- TO WHICH REPORT IS ADDRESSED -- HAS HAD

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CHANCE TO REVIEW IT IN COUNCIL SESSION. HE ADDED THAT PREMATURE US POLICY STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE SUBSTANCE OF REPORT COULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY SOME EUROPEANS AS US INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL OPERATION OF EC.

8. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR POSSIBLE PRESS QUESTIONS ON THE TINDEMANS REPORT (REF B) AND ON SECURITY ISSUES (REF C) IS PRECISELY THE LINE THAT SERVES BEST OUR EC INTERESTS IN FRANCE -- AND PERHAPS ELSEWHERE WITHIN COMMUNITY AS WELL. IN PARTICULAR, THEME THAT IT IS FOR EUROPEANS THEMSELVES TO DETERMINE HOW THEY WISH TO HANDLE THE SUBSTANCE OF TIN-
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DEMANS REPORT IS THE RIGHT TONE FOR US TO STRIKE AT THIS TIME. WE HOPE THAT WASHINGTON WILL CONTINUE TO AVOID ENGAGING IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EC-NINE ON THE TINDEMANS REPORT BEFORE EUROPEANS HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO THEIR OWN SHARE OF THE HARD SOUL SEARCHING THAT WILL BE REQUIRED OF THEM BY A NUMBER OF TINDEMANS' PROPOSALS. FINALLY, WE BELIEVE THAT DE MARGERIE'S COMMENT REPORTED IN PARA 1, REF D IS ACCURATE: US ATTEMPTS AT THE PRESENT TIME TO RE-OPEN THE SUBJECT OF US/EC CONSULTATION "A DIX" IS CERTAIN TO ENCOUNTER STRONG FRENCH RESISTANCE. MOREOVER, THE FRENCH ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE ISOLATED WITHIN EC ON THIS POINT.
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